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Mat-Su Monitor

SUMMER 2018 VOLUME 41 NUMBER 5

UP COMING EVENTS

April 28: Math Department Cram Jam, Snodgrass Hall. 9 AM - 2 PM.

May 1-7: Textbook buyback in Campus Cache, various hours.

May 10: Grades available in UAOnline.

May 11: Graduation ceremony, 7 PM in Glenn Massay Theater.

May 21-June 25: First 5-week summer semester session.

May 21-August 4: 10-week summer semester session.

May 29-June 02: Machetanz Arts Festival Workshops.

June 27-August 04: Second 5-week summer semester session.

August 27: first day of fall semester.

September 3: Labor Day. Campus closed.

September 4: Faculty approval required **to add classes.**

September 7: Last day to add/drop classes (5 PM deadline).

? YOUTUBE DOS OR DON'TS ?

By Saysha Santos

YouTube has been a helping hand to those of us that need visual aid. Many people, myself included, go to YouTube to learn, entertain, and procrastinate. I've seen quite a few YouTube videos and here are a few I would recommend you watch.

Horror:

Now YouTube has a strange way of directing your attention to videos on the right-hand side bar. An many of us fall victim to their hypnotizing ways. Don't judge me based on this video I am clearly going to tell you not to

See **YOUTUBE** *page 15*

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Tuition reduction for 50 UAA programs

Starting fall 2018, all University of Alaska campus will reduce tuition by 25% for many occupational endorsement program courses. Occupational endorsement programs are relatively short courses of study that require between 9 to 29 credits. As the University of Alaska's Career and Technical Education notes, "these skill-based programs are ideal for employers looking to affordably develop their employees' skills, or for individuals looking to change careers or increase credentials while seeking employment." Occupational endorsement program credits typically also count towards 2- and 4-year degrees.

These programs are ideal for employers

At Mat-Su College, the following occupational endorsement programs will offer some or all of their courses with the new lower tuition rate: Computer Information and Office Systems, CISCO Certified Network Associate, Commercial Refrigeration, Conflict Resolution, Logistics Operations, Medical Office Coding, Office Support, Residential & Light Commercial Heating and Ventilation, and Veterinary Assisting.

See **TUITION** *page 15*

GET READY FOR FINALS!

Extended Library Hours

April 23rd - May 5th

Monday – Thursday
8:30am - 10pm

Friday
8:30am - 6pm

Saturday
9am – 4pm

Get involved with your STUDENT GOVERNMENT

Meetings Wednesdays
11:50 - 12:50 JKB 108

Tale of a Worrywart

By Redd

Ok, I managed to get a seat in the front row without having to squeeze anyone out. Everything is fine, no real problems so far. There's a cough in the back of my throat, but hopefully between the water and cough drops I'll subdue it. Today isn't going to be a long lecture so I think I'm fine, just a nice movie day where nobody must answer quiz questions. However, since it is movie day, being a harbinger of bronchitis will not be good. I just have to sit in class for an hour and a half and not be "that guy".

Everything was fine until about half an hour in the movie. I could feel it, an all too familiar

See **WORRYWART** *page 15*

Flying Above

By Nathan Peter

Flying has been the most exhilarating thrill in my life since the day I started flying in my hometown of Bethel, Alaska. Yuut-Yuqunviat Flight School was the first stepping stone in what would begin a lifestyle that would forever change my worldview.

Since I was young in the small rural town, I would look towards the skies and watch the planes fly above with intense interest. Flying above the Earth through the air at very high speeds brings a freedom unlike any other. The most critical importance while learning to fly is spending hours in the books and going over the Federal Aviation Regulations Aeronautical Information Manual. These change constantly.

My flight instructor at the Yuut-Yuqunviat Flight School would always remind myself and my fellow students that anyone can fly. Anyone can turn on the engine and push the throttle forward, but how do you respond when you hear and feel the engine running rough? There are many different factors that go into flying and noticing a change in one of the many indicators in the cockpit while flying could very well mean the difference of living or crashing into the earth at a very high speed. A keen eye is required in being an aviator. I will never forget that while flying next to the mountains near the Knik Glacier, my flight instructor told me of someone he knew who did not pay attention to his surroundings and flew into one of the mountains. My instructor pointed to the spot on the mountains where he saw several bears come out of the woods going towards the dead bodies.

Flying is its own world. One when entered, one will always wish to remain.

FREDDIE THE FISH FINALLY FRIES

STORY ON PAGE 7

April 10, 2018 -- a student watches a moose and her calf from a window in the bridge between the FSM Snodgrass Hall buildings. The mother was within five feet of the window for at least 15 minutes. The sight drew many spectators, giving the bridge the atmosphere of a zoo exhibit.

MAT-SU MONITOR STAFF

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Position Available

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Audrey Badger

Faculty Advisor
Micah Muer

The *Mat-Su Monitor* is the student newspaper of Mat-Su College. The *Monitor* aims to report college news and serve as a forum for student writing. The *Monitor* seeks submissions of news, editorials, and short fiction from all students, staff, and faculty of Mat-Su College. All students are invited to attend the *Monitor*'s weekly meetings. Details on participating in or submitting content to the *Monitor* can be found at *https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml.*

The Mat-Su Monitor is funded by the Mat-Su College Student Government Association and our advertisers. For information on advertising in the *Monitor* contact Micah Muer at mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

The opinions expressed the *Monitor* article are solely those of its authors. They do not necessarily reflect the opinions or policy of the college, its students and employees, or the wider University of Alaska system.

The Mat-Su Monitor 2017-2018 staff thanks...

- Maggie Boman for diligently handling our financial paperwork
- Valley Burgstahler for editing assistance and creative inspiration
- Shira Crowell for scheduling our room reservations
- Korry Dunham for providing us with this semester's list of graduates
- Sandy Gravley for signing off on our paperwork
- Gabrielle Harvey for patiently but persistently reminding us to cover the Equinox Film Festival
- Mat-Su College Student Government Council for their constant support
- Our advertisers
- Our friends in the community that allow us to distribute the Monitor on their premises
- Ryan Sleight and Petra Albecker at the Frontiersman
- Scott Taylor for updating our site
- Paul Younack for proofreading our word search puzzles, which we sometimes get to him before we go to print.

SUBMISSIONS POLICY

Students are invited to submit articles and letters to the editor to uaa_msc@alaska.edu or at https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/student-government/student-clubs/mat-su-monitor.cshtml. The Mat-Su Monitor will not accept anonymous submissions, though with prior arrangement articles of a sensitive nature can appear anonymously. All submissions are subject to editing and will only appear with the approval of the editor.

Vice President Jeffery Brass, Secretary Thomas Brass, and Representative Joshua Weeks in Juneau waiting to meet with Alaska Legislators.

Student Leaders Traveled to State Capital to Advocate for Funding

By Brittany Harvey

On March 17th five students from the Mat-Su campus flew to Juneau to learn about the state budget and advocate for an increased budget for the university. They were joined by students from all over the state with similar interests and views. While in Juneau they met with many legislators to discuss three main points. They discussed the need for a higher operating budget for the cost of building repair that is needed across the states at several facilities. Secondly, the advocated the need to protect the Alaska Performance Scholarship and Alaska Education Grant for the original purpose of providing funding for students to stay in Alaska for a higher education. Finally, they brought awareness to the Alaska Education Tax Credit which promotes private sectors to make contributions to the University. The University benefits greatly from this program and would be at a loss if the tax credit wasn't extended for another six years. If you would like to learn more about how you can be involved in trips like this attend the student government meetings Wednesdays at 11:50 am.

Student Representatives Nathan Peter and Brittany Harvey at the State capital.

NOW
ACCEPTING
Mat-Su Middle College Spring & Fall 2018 Applications
Priority Application: January 8th - March 8th
Late Application: March 19th - August 1st
Complete an Application
Take Accuplacer & ALEKS Tests
GET ACCEPTED!
Get a Scholarship up to
$17,000
• Graduate High School with up to 60 College Credits
• Dual Credit Options, High School & College Classes
• College Tuition, Books & Fees Covered
• Individualized Learning
Call: 907.746.8494 or 907.761.3498
Email: MSM@matsuk12.us
www.matsuk12.us/msm
MAT-SU
Middle College

A letter from President Harvey

Hello Mat-Su students, my name is Brittany Harvey and I have been elected to represent you as your Student Council President. I am a sophomore here at Mat-Su and I am pursuing a Bachelor's of Science in Dental Hygiene. I became involved in Student Government when I founded the Mat-Su Recycles Community Club. I quickly became dedicated to continuing my efforts to explore options to better our campus community, hearing the student's concerns and finding solutions to their problems. I am optimistic that we can achieve great things this next year as we harness our love for knowledge, build great relationships and learn how to network.

I feel that we have an amazing college with a diverse student body that I am proud to represent. Please join me in school year 18/19 with your ideas on how to boost morale, what you would like to see done on campus, and any concerns that you would like to see addressed. I recognize that there are always issues that need to be solved and I will do my best to see to each of them but I also understand Rome wasn't built in a day. As a dedicated, persistent student representative you should know that I will work daily to find those solutions that we need. Finally, I encourage you all to join us on the student council as a Senator or a club Representative. If you are interested in either of those opportunities please contact me or come to the next Student Government meeting. I look forward to seeing you all there.

Meeting Employers' Expectations

By Adelina Rodriguez

With over 800 participants at Mat-Su College for the Employer Expo along with college and high school graduation approaching, preparing to enter the workforce may be at the forefront of your mind. Whether you are entering the workforce for the first time, changing career paths or have been temporarily unemployed, the process can be overwhelming, especially with changing technology driving how you submit an application. What has not changed is the expectation employers have of you for your cover letter, resume and interview.

What do employers expect? Simply stated, your BEST version of yourself. If offered a job, you will be representing the employer and profession, so they want to hire the BEST! How does this translate in your application and interview?

Proofread Application

Your application-resume, cover letter, references should be free of grammatical errors and typos. Reviewing for errors is one way employers filter through the number of applications they receive. *Highly* consider having your application reviewed by a Guidance Counselor or Career Advisor at your local school or Job Center.

Verify Contact Information

When considering a candidate for a position, an employer will verify with your professional references for quality of work, qualifications, and professional attributes. However, references often change their contact information. *Always,* contact your professional references to first verify that you may use them as a reference and second, that you have their preferred and current contact information.

Dress Professionally

Whether you are interviewing or attending a job fair, you should *always* dress professionally. Even in the last Frontier of Alaska, employers have an expectation that you will dress professionally. The industry or profession does not dictate how you present yourself. Again, you are presenting the BEST version of yourself and secondly, representing the employer. This does not require you to purchase a $400 suite. If you have questions on what you should wear, visit with your Guidance Counselor or Career Advisor.

Arrive Early

Plan to arrive for your interview at least 5-10 minutes early. Anticipate traffic and poor weather conditions, especially in the wintertime in Alaska. If you are unsure of the location, make plans to find it a day or two before the interview.

As practical as these recommendations may sound, being a part of interviewing committees, I can attest to candidates who succumb to missing out on an opportunity because they are not aware of the expectations of employers. Preparing for this next milestone can make the difference in attaining employment. Be proactive and attain guidance on how you can present the BEST version of yourself on paper and at an interview.

One-on-one advising is available for feedback on both a resume and cover letter. If you need assistance in preparing for an interview- what to expect or participating in a mock interview, you will be guided through the process. Alumni, current and prospective students can take advantage of services offered by the Student Services Career Development Office located at Matanuska-Susitna College, Fred and Sara Machetanz (FSM), Room 101, 8295 E. College Drive. Office hours are Monday through Thursday 8:30 am to 5:00 pm and Fridays 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Appointments can be scheduled by calling 907-746-9746.

Live Homework Help launches new writing tutoring service

Live Homework Help is a free tutoring service available to all Alaska residents. It is primarily aimed at students taking courses at any level, from kindergarten to college. Its tutors can provide help in areas such as math, science, writing, and English. It also has tutoring services for adults who have finished schooling but who may need help with topics such as citizenship exams or job searches. Live Homework Help's very capable tutors are available from 12 PM to 2 AM (so your average college student may have to get up a bit early to make use of the service).

Until recently, getting the help of a tutor meant chatting by text (or, optionally, voice) in real time. That is still the default way of getting help. But now Live Homework Help has a feature they call "Drop-Off," which lets you upload a paper or a math problem. Once uploaded, you can get on to other homework (or Netflix). Sometime later, you can log back in and look over the tutor's detailed feedback. This is an easy, stress-free way to add some polish to any assignment.

To make use of Live Homework Help, go to http://lam.alaska.gov/sled/homework and click "click to access Live Homework Help." Please note that the drop-off feature does require that you create a free account so that you can log in later to see the tutor's suggestions. The real-time tutoring does not require any account.

Library Hours:

Summer Intersession Hours:
May 7th thru May 20th:
Monday – Friday 9am – 5pm
Saturday & Sunday – Closed

Summer Semester Hours:
May 21st thru August 5th:
Monday – Thursday 9am - 6pm
Friday 9am - 5pm
Saturday & Sunday- Closed

CLOSED FOR HOLIDAYS: MAY 28TH JULY 4TH & JULY 5TH

DISTANCE WRITING TUTOR.

Students can schedule for in-person and phone tutorials by calling **907-474-5314.** The telephone service is available evenings Monday thru Thursday and on Sunday afternoons. For these appointments, after procuring a slot, students may e-mail their work to uaf-writing-center@alaska.edu at least one hour before the appointment, and the tutor will call at the appointed time. For more information visit **http://www.uaf.edu/English/writing-center/.**

Fall & Spring Hours

Mon.-Thur. 10:00 a.m.– 4:00 p.m.
7:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

Friday 10:00 a.m.- 1:00 p.m.

Sunday 1:00 p.m.- 6:00 p.m.

Summer Hours

Mon.-Thur. 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.

Fridays 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Additional Help available in the Learning Center

Rosetta-Stone Language Software

Computer Stations

Textbooks, Videos and Other Resources

HAVE SOME QUESTIONS? TRY ONE OF MAT-SU COLLEGE'S LEARNING SERVICES.

Elizabeth J Fallon Learning Center*

OLB 121 745-9772

https://matsu.alaska.edu/offices/learning-resource-center/index.cshtml

Tutoring Available in JKB 107 745-9713

***Tutoring is available only for students enrolled in MSC courses**

Online Tutoring:

Alaska State Library provides the Live Homework Hotline at tutor.com/alaska from 1pm-2am

www.tutor.com/military for military families who qualify

Khan Academy: Videos (math, science, economics, history) http://www.khanacademy.org/

Writing: http://writing.wisc.edu/Handbook/index.html
http://bcs.bedfordstmartins.com/rules7e/#t_669460
http://www.paperrater.com/
http://blog.apastyle.org/apastyle/

Pi Day is a Hit!

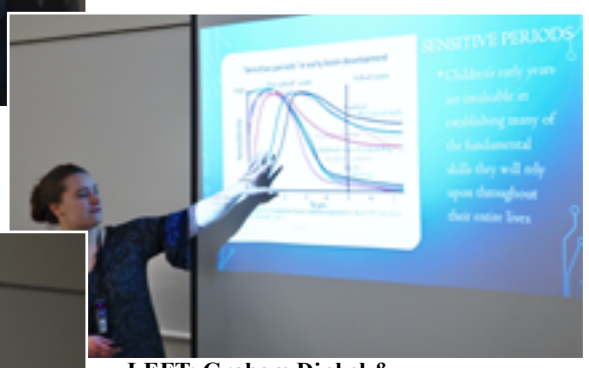
Brownies, cookies, cake, and cartoon violence -- what's not to like? Once again the Math Department spearheaded a fundraiser for a local charity. This time they held a combined bake sale/pie throw to raise money for My House, a shelter for teens.

The bake sale portion of the event was set up in the atrium. Spread across several tables, dozens of delectable baked goods were on offer for the low price of one dollar. Just outside the atrium, several staff and faculty volunteers let students throw at them paper plates full of whipped cream ("pies"). All they asked in return was a single dollar, which would also go to My House.

The event raised over 360 dollars over My House. Thanks, Math Department!

2018 Student Showcase

LEFT: Magic Mapili presents "Wage War"



RIGHT: Amber Ford presents"Emotional Bonding and Childhood Development"

LEFT: Graham Dinkel & Courtney Mulkins present "The Ladder Problem"

RIGHT: Austin Edwards presents " The Risk and Benefits of Developing DNA Forensics"

LEFT: Rosalee Cowan presents "Broadcasters"

RIGHT: Ben Henderson presents " The Ethics of Genetic Enhancement"

Recognizing Academic Excellence

On the quiet afternoon of Friday, April 20, 13 Mat-Su College students gave up a few hours of work, study, or relaxation, in order to present on an A-grade project they did in the last year. This was the Annual Student Showcase.

Standing in front of peers, staff, and faculty, and lecturing for 10 minutes -- that might be the easiest part of participating in the Student Showcase. To get to that place, students first had to have completed a project that earned an A grade. Then students needed to submit a 200-word description of their project and a written recommendation from the professor that gave their work an A grade.

Getting into the Student Showcase is no easy feat. But it's worth the effort. The judges will select three students to win a three-credit tuition waiver, an iPad Mini, or an Amazon Kindle. Everyone who was selected to take part in the Showcase has the right to say they are part of the college's academic elite. Their work will be published in Showcase Journal that is printed each year.

This year's showcase committee consisted of Professors Berberich, Grabarek, O'Leary, and Sagal. For Professor O'Leary, it was her final Student Showcase. She will retire at the end of the semester.

The participating students and their topics were as follows:

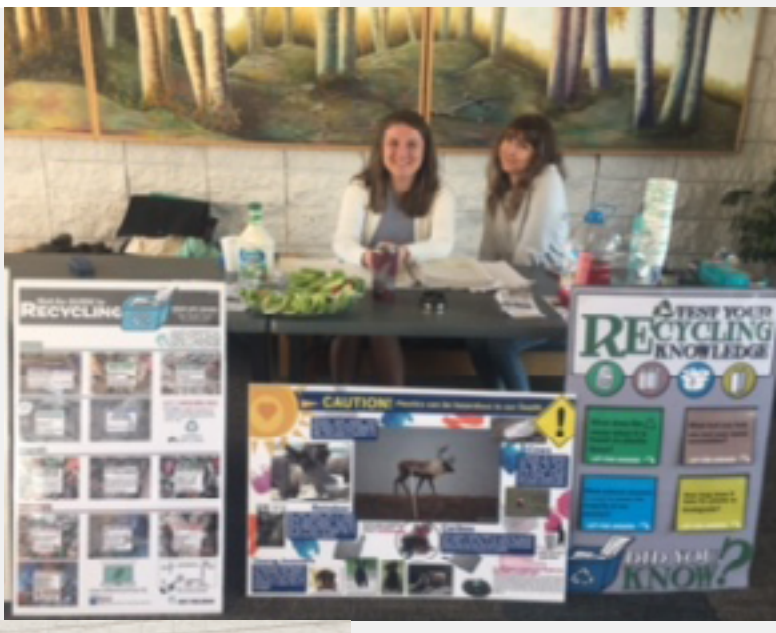
- Rosalee Cowan and Azlynn Brandenburg - Broadcasters, a radio program broadcast on Radio Free Palmer; for Professor Gette's Women's Studies 200.
- Graham Dinkel and Courtney Mulkins - The Ladder Problem, a video made to illustrate a classic calculus problem; for Dr. Allen's Math 251.
- Austin Edwards - The Risks and Benefits of Developing DNA Forensics, a paper written for Dr. O'Leary's Writing 111.
- Noelle Flodin - From Broken Childhood to Adulthood: Adverse Childhood Experiences and Adult Health, a paper written for Dr. O'Leary's Writing 111.
- Amber Ford - Emotional Bonding and Childhood Development, a paper written for Dr. O'Leary's Writing 213.
- Brittany Harvey - Memories, a paper written for Professor Bistodeu's Psychology 111.
- Ben Henderson - The Ethics of Genetic Enhancement, a paper written for Dr. O'Leary's Writing 111.
- Magic Mapili - Wage War, a paper on the gender pay gap written for Professor Sagal's Writing 111.
- Sam Ouellette - Prevention Program Project, a paper on a hypothetical drug prevention program, written for Professor Cox's Human Services 123.
- Sierra Sackett - Sociological Perspectives on the Abortion Dilemma, a paper written for Professor Gray's Sociology 101.
- Rylee Walker - The Future of Preimplantation Genetic Diagnosis in America, a paper written for Dr. O'Leary's Writing 111.

Earth Day Celebration

By Brittany Harvey

On April 19, The Mat-Su Recyclers and the Mat-Su Carbon Crew held an event for students, faculty, and the public. They educated on the impact that single-use plastic bags have on the environment and gave away 250 free reusable canvas bags. The canvas bag project was a combined effort of the Mat-Su Recyclers, Mat-Su campus, and the Mat-Su Carbon Crew. Additionally, a special thanks to the contributing local businesses, Matanuska Towing and Recovery, Turkey Red, and Backcountry Bike and Ski, for helping with the canvas bag project. We appreciate the support from the community and hope everyone enjoys their reusable bag!

LEFT: Young advocate for recycling checking out the spread.



RIGHT: Brittany Harvey and Tanya Ortner share information in the Atrium.

Solar panel model at Mat-Su College.

EASTER EVENT

By Jewel Burgstahler

The Mat-Su College offers many great, family-friendly events open to the public. I took two of my sisters to the Easter egg hunt on March 31. Two-year-old Enya was so excited when she saw balloons that she momentarily forgot about the candy that she came for. When asked at the end of the afternoon if she had enjoyed herself, she nodded resolutely, her little hands clutched tightly around the handle of her basket of candy, her balloon bobbing overhead... then hurried to the car so she could dig in.

Enya Burgstahler, age 2, enjoys hunting for eggs.

More than 200 people attended the college Easter Event.

Welcome Kids2College

Kids2College is a partnership between the Alaska Commission and Postsecondary Education and UA College Savings Plan. Through this curriculum students learned about financial aid, how to apply to college, and how to prepare for college.

One of their lessons included a career panel, were they had the opportunity to interact with working professionals from the Mat-Su Valley and Anchorage. The program culminated with a visit to Mat-Su College on Friday, April 6th for a super packed mini-college day.

The students learned about robotics, African dance moves and drumming, clean energy, theater, American Sign Language, public radio, math puzzles, and CPR just to name a few. This event would not have been possible without the participation of our instructors, community volunteers, staff, and students who came together to create meaningful memories for the 5th graders at Iditarod Elementary.

Machetanz Arts Festival
Mat-Su College

Coming June 2, 2018

For more information, a complete list of workshops, and registration link go to
https://matsu.alaska.edu/departments/fine-arts/machetanz-art-festival/

2018 Featured Artist
Dean Larson
4-day Int/Adv Oils
May 29-June 1
Cityscape and Landscape
Clothed Figure Portrait

Join us for the Featured Artist Lecture & Reception
Friday, June 1, 6 pm in the Glenn Massay Theater
Free and open to the public!

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

Save the Date

Machetanz Arts Festival Sponsors
Founding Sponsors
Rasmuson Foundation
First National Bank Alaska
ConocoPhillips
2018 Sponsors
The People's Paper
The Pass

For more information contact Teri at 745-9775 or tkjeffress@alaska.edu

UA is an AA/EO employer and educational institution and prohibits illegal discrimination against any individual: www.alaska.edu/nondiscrimination.

FAFSA Freddie's Final Farewell

By Jaclyn Cabales

Freddie the FAFSA fish made his debut in 2008. In a push for statewide FAFSA filing, Freddie became the face of Financial Aid publications and promotional materials for campuses around the state. His banner year was in 2009, when a puppet of the University of Alaska President Mark Hamilton held Freddie captive on a fishing pole exclaiming, "Fill out your FAFSA by February 28th or the fish gets fried."

A giant papier-mâché Freddie the Fish mask (pictured on the front page) was created by Public Affairs at statewide and was used in places around the state. Freddie was seen in Fairbanks, Anchorage, Bethel, and Mat-Su to name a few places. Freddie was not light, as a result he primarily stayed around UAF because of shipping issues. Freddie's last visit was to Mat-Su College.

It was at Mat-Su where he encouraged FASFA filing; a volunteer wore the head-mask and handed out Swedish Fish. Freddie the FAFSA Fish had a great run. Unfortunately, he reached the end of the pond. Now there is early FAFSA and the big push is to get your FAFSA application completed after October 1st. February FAFSA Frenzy is no more, and Freddie got fried. Yet it is still important to file your FAFSA for post-secondary education.

Director's Walks

Get outside, enjoy nature, and make connections along the way. Join Dr. Colberg, Mat-Su College's Director, for a walk on the trails.

Bring your Passport to JKB 133 when you have collected:

- 5 stamps: Get a $10 MSC Cafeteria Coupon (while supplies last)
- 6 stamps: Take a custom Arctic Dragon diffuser necklace, bracelet, or wood charm from LowCountry Eclectic (while supplies last)
- 7 stamps: Enter the drawing to win a Hydro Flask. One entry per person.)
- 8-10 stamps: Enter the drawing to win a $50 REI Gift Certificate (Deadline to enter the drawing: May 3, 2018. Up to 3 entries per person.)

Sophia, the Mat-Su College Arctic Dragon, is dedicated to the well-being of Mat-Su College students, staff, and faculty. In this passport, you will find a number of Dragon-approved events and activities specifically designed to help you cope with stress, rise to challenges, and take good care of yourself along the way. If you are preparing for a health-related career, many of these events will round out your academic preparation for working with clients or patients in the future.

So travel along with Sophia to the four destinations for well-being:

Awareness of good mental health for yourself and others

Balance between school, work, family, and self-care

Connection to campus, community, friends, and family

Off the Beaten Path, expanding your horizons by trying something new

Mat-Su College Journey activities and behavioral care services for students are supported by a Healthy Impact Grant from the Mat-Su Health Foundation.

Check the Journey website weekly for full activity descriptions and updates. All events are free.

Passports will be available in Academic Affairs, Student Services, around campus, and at events. Good luck on your journey and best wishes for a happy and healthy semester!

Start Your Journey!

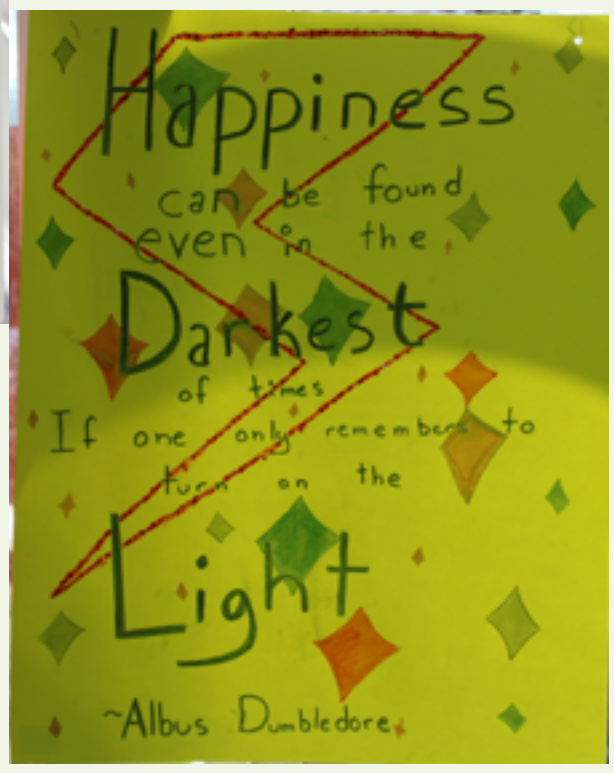
It's easy to win: attend events, collect stamps, and then drop by the Academic Affairs Office with your passport after reaching each level for your next prize!

Limit one Passport per person.

Remember, when you attend a Dragon-approved event, make sure you get your passport stamped. Passports will not be stamped retroactively: You must collect your stamp at the event.

National Library Week

Research has shown that reading has lifelong benefits. Help celebrate and promote reading by creating and displaying a poster for your favorite book.



Attend a Mat-Su College Student Government Council Meeting

Meetings are held every from 11:50 - 12:50 pm in FSM 105

Get involved in your school newspaper!

The Mat-Su Monitor

The Monitor is looking for:

- Reporters (bring your own article or take an assignment
- Artists and cartoonists
- Fiction writers and poets
- Students interested in marketing, sales, or accounting
- Graphic designers or anyone with desktop publishing experience
- Anyone else who wants to participate in a college newspaper!

For more information, or to submit article online, search Mat-Su Monitor on the college website

Mondays and Thursdays
12:00-12:50pm
Library room 213

Mat-Su College
University of Alaska Anchorage

Congratulations to our 2018 graduates!

List compiled April 20.

CERTIFICATES AND OCCUPATIONAL ENDORSEMENT CERTIFICATES

Commercial HVAC systems

Robert Patrick Campbell

Office Foundations

Melody Calhoun
Margaret E Hobbs
Helena Colleen Joe
Marilyn A. Kosbruk
Kelly Francine Malidore
Zoraida Teresa Minard
Jaime Leeann Rodgers
Ramanda J Stowers

Refrigeration and Heating Technology

John Wayne Burak
Shane Emmitt Laboucane
Jacobus Hendrikus Post

Veterinary Assisting

Alyssa C Briggs
Theresa Brooke Chappell
Shelby Lynn Cleman
Kaylene Ruby Rihtarshich
Ashley Melody Beth Williams

ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE

Accounting

Michele Marie Bailey
Kali Clifton
Lisa Lynn Hampton
Shana Lynn Jensen
James Roy Kosakowski
Marcia Vonehr

Computer Information and Office Systems

Kelly Francine Malidore
Marcia Lynn Wyatt

Computer Systems Technology

Ian David Binford
Daniel Ray Brodigan
Daniel Elijah Arenas Pankratz
Alexander Craig Straight
Daniel Wayne Young

General Business

Robert Thomas Laursen Alexander
Kitlisa Jolene Carson
Delta Lee Jackleen Fettes
Tyler Allen Hall
Melissa Sue Marshall
Ashley Melody Beth Williams
James Benjamin Wright

Human Services

Thomas E Brass
Judith Faith Horcsik
Gabriel C Hurt
Anita Petrovna Kudryn
Ashley Marie Linsey
Daryan Paige Marshall
Shiloh Gay Morrison
Samuel K Ouellette
Skyla Marie Schlosser
Aksana Alyona Shagov

Paramedical Technology

Kathrina Amber Marie Buckman
Ryan B Coffman
Erin Lynn George
Katrina Joan Grant
Anna Elaine Johansson
Brandy Marcela Santacr Malidore
Aaron Phillip Ocampo
Bonnie D. Snyder

Refrigeration and Heating Technology

Robert Patrick Campbell
Matthew Jacob Gildersleeve
Aaron Michael Greene

Small Business Administration

Michelle Lee Pocock

ASSOCIATE OF ARTS

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Scott Alexander Jacobo
John Andrew Knight
John Chase Wells Knutson
Claire Virginia Kudyba
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Erika May Mason
Todd Allen McCaw
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Adam Schuler
Amanda Nicole Sedor
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Andrew Nathan Spencer
Charles Malcolm Stokes
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Meghan Elizabeth Thompson
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Anthropology

WynnD Morn Renzi

Early Childhood Education

Haley Ford

Elementary Education

Jaleen Joy Ellis

BACHELOR OF BUSINESS

Business Administration

Faith Esther Bridget Kolean

Global Logistics and Supply Chain Management

Matthew Swanson

Time, the Journey Home

By Marcia Wyman

You have traveled many a road
Learning lessons along life's highways.
Often times you travel the same old ways, or
Sometimes it is a new adventure you seek to find.
All courses of movement share motion towards a destination.
Motion becomes a choice between an old path repeated, or a
"One true and traveled by few" directional course. If the
Outcome is the same, then all is predictable, you
Arrive at the same points of habit every day. If the
Outcome is new, then there is no familiarity. Do you
Stay long enough to become familiar with the surroundings? Do you
Enjoy an essence only to quickly return to the predictable?
Will you follow the same old dead-end routine, or change course?
The one true way traveled by few could very well be a special journey,
"But few there be that find it."
Wherever your journey leads, remember,
"Your people will be my people."
Let us share the journey despite the difficulties, and
Adopt the unknown in certain assurance that wherever we are,
Home is what we make it.
We are always home, whether we stay in one place, or wander.
Home is that inner peace that shelters us from the storm,
Provides us nourishment, and allows us to rest.
Most importantly, love and patience fill our home
Reflecting precious values of forgiveness and grace, which
Guide us to embrace our tomorrows in confidence
We "are never alone."
So, if times get rough like they sometimes do,
Welcome the painful truth with open arms, and
"Fear not what men can do," or what will be.
For only through the journey of time, will
We learn to see along the highways
Life's lessons learned.

YOUR STORY COULD BE HERE!

Write an interesting paper for a class? Experience something on campus that you want to share with others? Have a strong opinion about an issue? Just want to share a poem or short story? Now any student can submit content through the Monitor's webpage! Just Search "Monitor" on the college website to find it.

Monitor Drop Box

Question: What are your plans for the summer?
Answers:

- Going to spend 2.5 months in Hawaii
- Comic-Con in San Diego!
- To go on a trip to see my man in New Mexico if I don't move in with him
- Working to earn money for fall semester tuition
- Spending 1.5 months traveling in Europe, then a family reunion
- Running Mount Marathon race, then moving to Colorado
- Teaching and tutoring

HEATHER'S TOP 8

WAYS TO KEEP YOUR MIND SHARP OVER SUMMER BREAK

By Heather Deadmond

1. **Read books**
   Nonfiction and biographies are usually good choices, but any book that keeps your interest and challenges your vocabulary is a good thing.
2. **Keep up with the news and other intellectual interests**
   It's good to know what's going on in the world and to be able to organize the facts and opinions floating around out there.
3. **Learn a new skill for fun**
   This could range from the creative to the practical - from learning a new instrument or artistic skill, to learning how to fix your car or a more efficient way of going about spring cleaning.
4. **Get plenty of exercise**
   Walks in the great outdoors are always good for a clearer mind. Take a hike with some friends, take a class at the gym, or learn to dance.
5. **Watch documentaries or similar media**
   If you're still focused on keeping your mind sharp, non-fiction movies and TV shows are the better route to take to avoid mindless binge watching.
6. **Travel to a new place**
   Even if it's just a staycation, travel opens your mind to new people, places, and ideas.
7. **Organize for next semester**
   This includes seeing your advisor, scheduling your classes for next semester, cleaning up and recycling old papers and assignments that you no longer need, etc. Keep your mind in "school-mode."
8. **Learn a new language**
   Learning new languages has the added benefit of learning about new cultures. It fosters creativity and open-mindedness and is a great way to spend your summer.

MAKE A POSITIVE IMPACT IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Play an important role on the Mat-Su College Campus. Being on a committee can help to enhance your career, give you a chance to give back to your community, and give you the opportunity to challenge yourself by helping to shape your society.

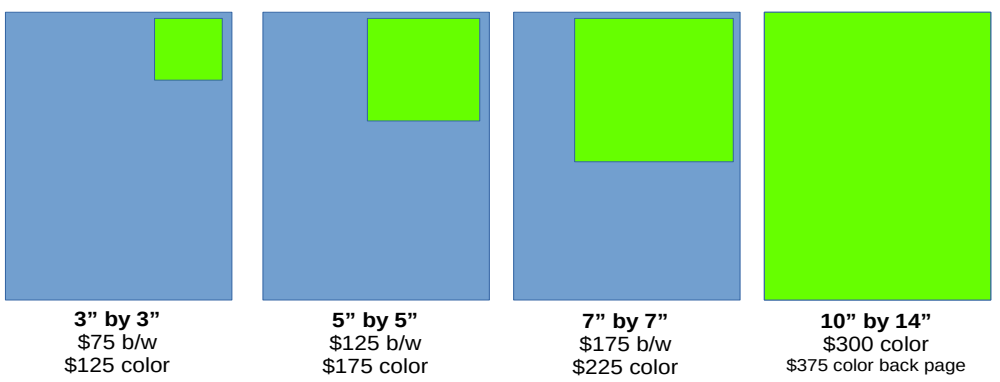
Current Mat-Su College Committees open to the student body:

- Board of Elections
- Concert Committee
- Constitution Committee
- Dance Committee
- Health and Wellness Committee
- Rules Committee
- Pizza Committee
- Planning Committee
- Finance Committee

Or join one of the student clubs. Clubs are a great place to meet like minded people, have fun, learn new things and relax.

- Alaska Native Culture Club
- Mat-Su Dance Club
- MSC Veterans' Club
- Mat-Su Recycles
- Mat-Su Carbon Crew
- Mat-Su Monitor
- Human Services Club
- Paramedic Association

Joining a committee or club looks good on resumes as well as gives you a chance to connect with fellow students, staff and faculty. You owe it to yourself to try them out. If you don't see a club that interests you, you can start one of your own. Student Government will fund you up to $300 to cover expenses. You can pick up a form at the Student Government office in JKB 114, near the café.



Advertisers sought!

Advertising in the *Mat-Su Monitor* is an affordable way to reach a wide demographic. With a circulation of around 5,000, an educated readership, and affordable rates. For details contact mwmuer@alaska.edu or 907-745-9758.

YOUR CLUB'S AD COULD BE HERE!
CONTACT THE MAT-SU MONITOR FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Recycling Club

By: Tanya Ortner, Vice Chair of MSRCC

Did you know Mat-Su College has a new club, one that is also open to the general public? The Recycling Club is in its development phase and looking for new members! We are currently focusing our time on getting filtered water dispensers installed on campus, so that everyone can fill up their favorite water bottle with clean, refreshing water while also cutting down on plastic waste! Completion of this task would benefit faculty and students, who currently have no access to decent water at the school. With Earth Day around the corner, it's a great time to reconsider our lifestyles and support recycling both on and off campus. We welcome all community members to join us and hopefully together make small changes that will enhance our experiences! We meet every other Thursday in Snodgrass room 103 at 11:50.

Please contact Brittany Harvey at bnbarve@alaska.edu with any questions you may have.

Monitor

MEETING TIMES
Mondays &
Thursdays
12:00-12:50
OLB 214
(Upstairs in the Library)

- Photographers
- Writers
- Reporters
- Marketing Reps
- Cartoonists
- Artists

Now taking submissions: Next deadline for entries: SEPTEMBER 10

Student Veterans of Mat-Su College
Mat-Su Arctic Dragons

America's Military has proven time and again that they are willing to answer the call when it comes to protecting America. The transition from soldier to student can be a daunting experience.

The Student Veterans of Mat-Su College has been created as a place for all individuals, regardless of military affiliation, to get together and support each other while enriching our lives through the pursuit of continuing education.

Membership is open to anyone who would like to become involved. For more information on the Student Veterans of Mat-Su College, find us on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/groups/studentveteransofmatsucollege/ or e-mail us at studentveteransofmatsucollege@gmail.com

MEETINGS: MONDAYS 8am SNOD 124

Wednesday 1:30 Glenn Massay Theater (stage)

MAT-SU CARBON CREW

Mondays 8 am JKB 114 (Student Gov. Office)

Save the planet fanatics? NO!!! We are students that believe this planet is our responsibility and taking care of it is a necessity. Our main goal is to show others better ways to produce food, to use fuels more efficiently, and to use our resources in a manner that is beneficial. Yes, we love our world and want the people on it to thrive. Come join us.

Human Services Club

The information gateway between community help organizations and the Mat-Su College student body.

Thursdays 8am SNOD 119

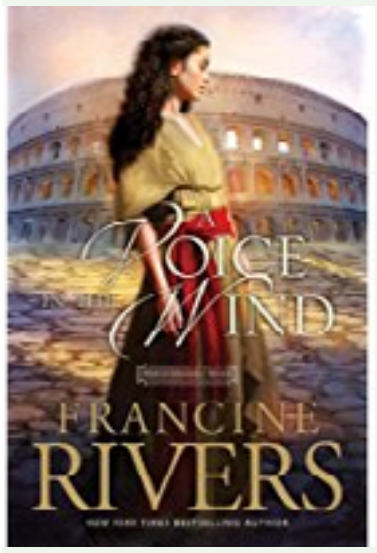
ALASKA NATIVE CULTURE CLUB

We meet **every Monday** 11:50am to 12:50pm **FSM 200** *(Art Gallery upstairs)*
STUDENT CLUB CALENDER on the Mat-Su website: http://matsu.alaska.edu Or e-mail us at: : MatSuANCC@gmail.com

Mat-Su Monitor
Summer 2018

Book reviews: *By Saysha Santos*

A Voice In The Wind by Francine Rivers



A Voice in the Wind is the first book in the "Mark of the Lion" series. It is the story of a young Christian-Jewish slave named Hadassah living in the Roman Empire. When Hadassah is captured by Roman soldiers, her entire family is killed. She is then placed into slavery, where she serves her Roman master. Hadassah is faithful and kind but afraid of many things. As the story progresses, she gains the courage to tell others about her faith and the God that she serves. Meanwhile, she struggles with love and to remain close to God. But her hard life and difficult challenges have only just begun.

The book is in third person, which made her and the rest of the characters all the more real. The descriptions made me feel like I was walking on the cobbled roads of Rome in 70 A.D. I cringed as if I could hear the cries of those being persecuted, I felt my heart race as the crowd in the arena went crazy for the gladiators. I was left amazed and raw every time Hadassah accepted her fate with a smiling face and the undying will to serve.

The reader follows different characters throughout the book, but they are all eventually tied to Hadassah. We are introduced to Hadassah's Roman master, Julia, who is a young woman with the mind of a 2018 woman. She is easily swayed and has a wild spirit. But in 70 A.D., women were under the thumb of the head of the household, which normally was their father or husband. She can't help but feel trapped and antsy. The bond between the two girls grows to that of mother and daughter. Hadassah takes pride in being a slave and has no shame in serving a master because she serves them as she would serve God. Julia ends up befriending someone that encourages her to make selfish and terrible choices that turn her into something ugly and hateful in the end.

When I read the story usually is like a movie playing in my head and I can get sucked in. As for *A Voice in the Wind*, it didn't just suck me in, it came to life. I swear I could feel Hadassah's faith illuminating the pages. I yearned to become a faithful servant just like she is; it makes me want to be a better Christian. Honestly, I urge you to go out and read the book, even if Christianity isn't your faith, as her character is too beautiful to pass up. As the summary above mentions, this book, *A Voice in the Wind*, is the first of the "Mark of the Lion" trilogy. The second book is called *An Echo in the Wind*, and the third is *As Sure as the Dawn*.

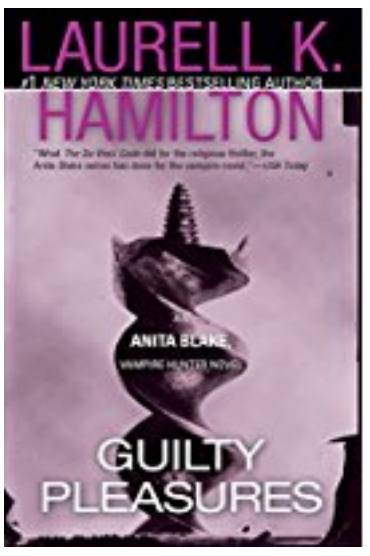
I do apologize if you as a reader are easily offended or get upset when the LGBT community is slandered or frowned upon. I do have to warn you that this is a Christian-based book and homosexuality is frowned upon in here. But,

See **VOICE** *page 15*

Anita Blake Series by Laurell K. Hamilton

List of titles:

1. Guilty Pleasure
2. Laughing Corpse
3. Circus of the Damned
4. Lunatic Cafe
5. Bloody Bones
6. The Killing Dance
7. Burnt Offerings
8. Blue Moon
9. Obsidian Butterfly
10. Narcissus in Chains
11. Cerulean Sins
12. Incubus Dreams
13. Micah
14. Danse Macabre
15. The Harlequin
16. Blood Noir
17. Skin Trade
18. Flirt
19. Bullet
20. Hit List
21. Kiss of the Dead
22. Affliction
23. Jason
24. Dead Ice
25. Crimson Death



By Saysha Santos

Summary:

All 25 books revolve around the life of an animator, Anita Blake. In this series, all supernatural things come to life in the most gruesome ways – well, most of the time. Anita Blake has a rare, natural talent of raising the dead from the grave - yes, zombies - for a very expensive fee, of course. When she isn't raising the dead, she helps the local cops with supernatural cases and is a certified vampire executioner, but only if they've been bad. In this world, vampires are fighting for the right to be treated like any normal human being. The only ways they're different are in their eating habits and their deathly allergy to the sun. Throughout the series the characters and the readers begin to uncover ancient creatures that should have stayed myths.

As we get deeper and further along in the books we see the changes that shape Anita Blake and unlock the truth of her abilities. But, we also get the delicious treats of man candy. That's right, ladies and gentlemen, exotic dancing lovers. Along with her natural ability to raise the dead, she has the natural ability to collect men, but sometimes she doesn't even want them. Man, do I wish had that ability.

I have followed the Anita Blake series faithfully since I started it in my senior year of high school and I loved every one of them. Much like the men in this series, I have a woman crush on Anita, really if I swung in that direction, she would be my first choice. All joking aside, Anita opened my eyes to my reading flavor. She's like that first love and you're comparing every new book to her because she was the

See **BLAKE** *page 15*

Mary Poppins Goes to College

From March 30 to April 22 Valley Performing Arts presented Mary Poppins at Mat-Su College's Glenn Massay Theater. Originally a Broadway adaptation of a Disney movie, our hometown performance was a great success for both Valley Performing Arts and the College. Attendance was historic -- the parking lot really filled up during shows - and word of mouth suggested that most of the many attendees went away satisfied.

The principal cast included Heather Sawyer as Marry Poppins, Matthew Holman as Bert, Tammy Brehm as Mrs. Banks, Paul Holman as Mr. Banks, Kailee Gumley as Jane Banks, and Jamison Gumley as Michael Banks. The play was directed by Larry Bottjen. It was his last directing role for VPA. He plans to move to Missouri.

One final note: while thousands of people paid good money for tickets, all Mat-Su College students were eligible for a free ticket. This is a common arrangement for events held at the theater, so students should always check with the Student Government or the Glenn Massay Theater box office whenever there is a show coming up.

Business owners!

The Mat-Su Monitor is a great place to advertise your business or event. The Monitor has a wide circulation, with thousands of copies inserted in the Frontiersman and distributed throughout the Valley.

We also have low rates:

Ad Size	Cost, B/W	Cost, Color
1/8th page	$75	$125
1/4th page	$125	$175
1/2 page	$175	$225
Full page	$275	$300
Full page, back	Always color	$375

Moreover, the Monitor runs relatively few ads, which ensures that your ad will stand out. Finally, advertising in the Monitor demonstrates your support for local students. For more on advertising, call **745-9758.**

FROM THE STUDIO:
Artwork on display in the gallery

Ask Sophia

Welcome to Ask Sophia, the Mat-Su Monitor's regular advice column. If you have a question you'd like to see answered, email it to sophia@matsu.alaska.edu or submit it in the Ask Sophia box located in the cafeteria.

Q. Dear Sophia: I sometimes think I should be on anti-anxiety medicine but I don't know what the first step is. Help?

A. Dear Anxious: I'm a dragon, not a doctor, but here's my layman's advice: Visit your physician, but don't go in thinking "I'm here for a prescription." Before you request medication - which may have undesirable side effects - ask the doctor about other, natural alternatives, such as diet modifications, exercise programs, sleep routines, and/or relaxation techniques. If your symptoms fail to improve after a couple months of employing these practices, then reconsider getting some medicine. It's also important to be aware that some physiological conditions may cause or mimic feelings of anxiety, so be sure to tell your doctor about any unusual physical symptoms on your first visit, in case the diagnosis is more complicated.

Q. Dear Sophia: What can one do if they are less than enthusiastic about the person their friend is marrying?

A. Dear Friend: First, ask yourself why you don't like the fiancé. If it's a superficial reason, (terrible fashion sense, goofy hairstyle, bad facial hair, hyena-ish laugh, etc.), sorry, but you're just going to have to get over it. It's not your place to dampen your friend's infatuation. Maybe if you get to know the fiancé better, you will learn to appreciate their personality and won't notice the bothersome aspect(s) of their appearance. If what you don't like has to do with how the fiancé treats your friend, and you're concerned about the future of the relationship and/or the safety of your friend, talk to your friend's family and other friends. If they feel the same way, maybe one or more of them will accompany you to talk to your friend about it. But it all comes down to this: ultimately it's your friend's choice, and while you can try to convince them otherwise, you will probably have to simply accept the marriage, congratulate the couple, and move on with life. However, this does not mean that your friendship has to end - spend time with just your friend if you simply cannot stand the spouse, but don't give up your friendship for the sake of a condescending Cathy or a caterpillar mustache.

AHHH THE 90'S

S	B	L	E	C	A	I	N	A	M	I	N	A	P	H
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Circle the words from the list below. Place the leftover letters in the spaces for a special message!

_ _ _ _

YOUTUBE *continued from page 1*

watch, which makes you curious to watch it: *"Don't Hug Me. I'm Scared."* This is basically videos pointing out educational cartoons changing the way kids view things. There are many theories behind what is really going on with the puppet characters and the creators, Becky and Joe, refuse to pick a right or wrong theory. The whole point of the videos is for people to have different opinions on it and draw their own conclusions or theories on the why.

It's six episodes and each episode has an "educational" theme. For example, the very first video is about thinking creatively - making shapes with the clouds, picking your favorite color, and finding inspiration around you. But, at 2:20 min, the video turns dark and a screeching violin is added to the upbeat kid music. Then they start to roll a heart in glitter, spell out the word "death," and put the heart in a cake (which one can assume they eat because they are puppets).

Honestly, I am a huge scaredy cat and seeing that first video, I was not brave enough to watch all six. But, I did take the time to see some theories. One theory pointed out the fact that kid shows and movies have subliminal messages, yet with this video it was as if the creators had the subliminal messages not so subliminal. I would most definitely not show this to kids at all. Seriously, one episode is about eating healthy and they end up eating the duck because that's a healthy food choice.

Comedy:

I love watching funny videos when I've had a stressful day at school, or I'm over worked with papers. Sometimes I need a good laugh to relieve that stress. I was recently showed some pretty funny videos by StoneMountain64, his videos entitled "YOLO on the Battlegrounds" are hilarious. There is some swearing, but it's so funny seeing people taking PUBG (a last man standing/ group standing game) so seriously.

I would have to say my favorite video is "AWM COMMANDER YOLO on the Battlegrounds #3" and "TANK SQUAD GOALS (ft. NeebsGaming, Thick44, Appsro) YOLO on the Battlefield 1 #87." I have never laughed so hard over a video in my life. Now every time my little sister says something to me I yell "I AM YOUR COMMANDING OFFICER." So this youtuber does these shooting and serving games and we just watch him do his thing. Mostly other players watch this as a way to strategize the next time they play this game, or they just watch for their entertainment. In #87 the bromance between Neebs and Mountain is so real. I just love the conversations that go down.

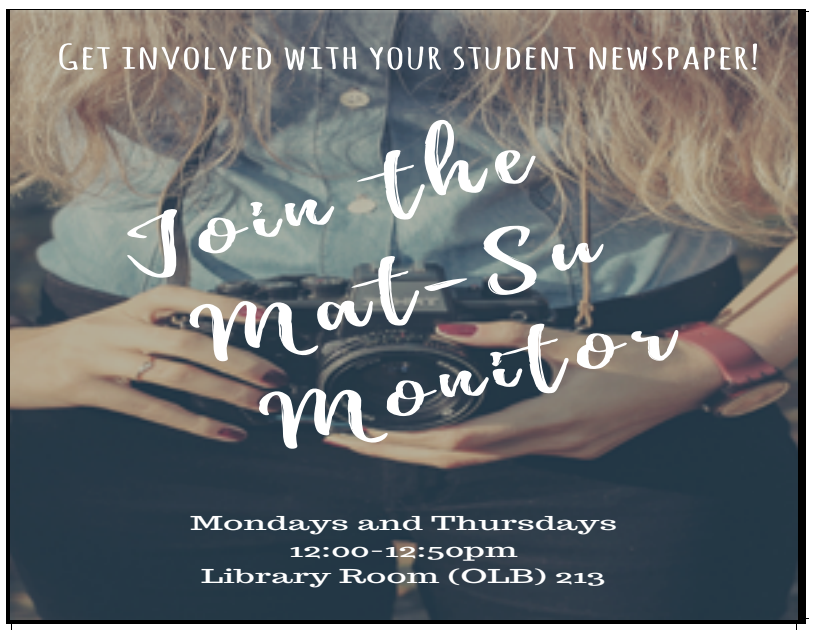
Educational:

I love to watch building videos, crafty videos, thrifted transformations, and some crocheting videos. I don't really have a specific video for the building and crocheting, but I do love watching MyFroggyStuff. She makes things for her daughter's dolls. I also just like to listen to her voice; it's sort of calming. Weird, I know, but it gets ideas flowing, and some are easy enough that I can make a few for my niece's dolls as well.

As for the Thrifted Transformations (which is the name of her videos), I watch Coolirpa. She takes the "meh" clothing that you would get at a thrift store and creatively transforms it into a beautiful outfit. You should check her out.

TUITION *continued from page 1*

For more details on what occupational endorsement programs are included, registration information, and details on career opportunities, see the Mat-Su College "Skills that Work" page at https://matsu.alaska.edu/skills-that-work and the University of Alaska's Career and Technical Education page at http://alaska.edu/starthere/cte/.



VOICE *continued from page 12*

not so much that they paint a bad picture of them, just that in Rome around that time period, sexuality was explored and some of the characters weren't okay with that life style.

I have read many books and this one exceeds them all. It's always the books that I wouldn't pick out for myself which are the ones that I enjoy the most. I first got this book when I was in high school, around sophomore year (2012). My aunty had brought it over after finishing it herself and recommended that I give it a shot. At that time I wasn't too interested in reading religious books - I mean even now I haven't ventured out to that genre. But, if every religious fictional book was like this one, I would never stop reading. This book has it all: romance, faith, death, annoying characters (Julia), and a misleading ending. I don't want to say too much about the book and give away some crazy scenes, so please go read it and come find me so we can talk about it.

I'll leave off with my favorite quote from the book: "Rather than remain a sealed jar, she sought only to pour herself out to others. Everything she did mirrored her faith. It was as though every waking hour of the day she was devoted to pleasing her God by serving others. This God that she worshiped consumed her. It didn't ask for a brief visit to the temple, or a small votive offering of food or coin, or a few prayers every now and then. This God wanted all of her" (p. 337),

About the author:

"Francine Rivers began her literary career at the University of Nevada, Reno, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in English and Journalism. From 1976 to 1985, she had a successful writing career in the general market and her books were awarded or nominated for numerous awards and prizes. Although raised in a religious home, Francine did not truly encounter Christ until later in life, when she was already a wife, mother of three, and an established romance novelist.

"In 1997, after winning her third RITA award for Inspirational Fiction, Francine was inducted into the Romance Writers' of America Hall of Fame. In 2007, the feature-length film version of her novel The Last Sin Eater was released in theaters by Fox Faith. She uses her writing to draw closer to the Lord, and that through her work she might worship and praise Jesus for all He has done and is doing in her life." Source: Biography. (2010, February 6). Retrieved April 10, 2018, from http://francinerivers.com/biography/

WORRYWART *from page 1*

scratch in the back of my throat. The next ten minutes were filled with increasing panic and annoyance as I tried to desperately suppress my cough. Soon, the task proved too challenging and what emitted from me was a deep billowy, chest cough. It was loud enough that anyone who wasn't in a coma could hear it.

I dared not look around, I knew people had to be staring at me. All I could do was internally apologize to everyone and try not to delve into a coughing fit. The rest of the class period was thankfully only filled with minor coughs sprinkled sporadically throughout. I survived, I did it, I managed to make it to the end of class without embarrassing myself further. I knew I was annoying people every time I coughed, and I tried my best to hold it in. Bracing myself, I turned towards my seat mate and apologized for being annoying. She merely gave me a look of confusion and then promptly replied with "I barely even noticed". I was shocked, relieved, and confused all at the same time. There was no way she didn't notice my cough they were loud and disruptive.

Thinking back on it was my coughing even that noticeable. The movie was good, and I suppose I barely paid attention to anyone around me during certain parts. Maybe, my coughing wasn't as bad as I thought. I could have probably enjoyed the movie more if I didn't spend so much effort worrying about annoying everyone else. All I could do now was just chastise myself for feeling so anxious over something so minor.

If anyone ever wonders what a being a worrywart is like, just imagine worrying over everything. A level of insecurity that you spend a lot of effort on trivial things. All for absolutely no reason. Anything, from coughing, to leaving the class midway in to go to the bathroom, or even having to zip your bag open in a silent area. Being a worrywart isn't crippling, but its detrimental to your overall self. So, take advice from one, and let the minor stuff go. Honestly, by the end of the day very little outside of yourself really matters. So live life a little and don't spent it in constant worry.

BLAKE *continued from page 12*

best.

She is a badass female character, so I can see why the men and women in this series are intimidated by her, and why the bigger and badder monsters fear her. Loyalty is her first name, courage is her middle, and defiance is her last. Don't put her in the room with an authoritative figure; she might just shoot them or piss them off. But, I think it was her blatant disobedience and her badass-ness that got me addicted to her. She's the type to shoot first because it better to be safe than dead, when it's all clear, that's when you ask the questions. She has a hard shell when it comes time to kill, but a soft heart when it comes to family and friends.

Now for the warning: this series is most definitely not for kids 18 and under. This is for a MATURE audience only because there is a whole lot of sex and death. I'm serious! Unlike the other book I reviewed, which was Christian-based and about a humble Christian slave, this series is completely and totally different. Anita is in a polyamorous relationship with her men and one or two women. Sexuality is most definitely not frowned upon in this series and is very much embraced.

About the Author:

Laurell K. Hamilton

Laurell Kaye Hamilton was born February 19, 1963 in Heber Springs, Arkansas, but grew up in Sims, Indiana. She is an American fantasy and romance writer and is known for her two best-selling series, Anita Blake: Vampire Hunter, and Merry Gentry.

Her education includes degrees in English and biology from Marion College (now called Indiana Wesleyan University), a private Evangelical Christian liberal arts college in Marion, Indiana that is affiliated with the Wesleyan Church denomination. On her home website, she is quoted on where her first influence for her style of writing came from: "The old Hammer Vampire films would be one of my first entertainment influences, especially 'Vampire Circus' also known as 'Circus of Fear.'"

I normally don't share my reading gold with anyone, only because I like to think it's my little precious and if Gollum wouldn't part with the ring, then I wouldn't part with my books. But, I've come to realize that the more people read similar books to mine, the more people I can fangirl over them with. It just so happens that the Mat-Su College has the first book in the series within its library. I have included a list of the book series in order above. Happy reading.

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